

LISTERIOSIS

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. CLINICAL DESCRIPTION: In adults, invasive disease caused by *Listeria monocytogenes* manifests most commonly as meningitis or bacteremia; infection during pregnancy may result in fetal loss through miscarriage or stillbirth, or neonatal meningitis or bacteremia. Other manifestations can also be observed.
- B. REPORTING CRITERIA: Clinical diagnosis with laboratory confirmation.
- C. LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:
- Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less common, joint, pleural or pericardial fluid)
 - In the setting of miscarriage or stillbirth, isolation of *L. monocytogenes* from placental or fetal tissue
- D. KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION: A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION: REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or a suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form - EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 2. National Bacterial Meningitis and Bacteremia Case Report - CDC 52.15 REV. 10-91.
- C. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:
- Cluster investigation if more than one case occurs in close geographic or temporal setting.
 - Pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals should be instructed to eat only properly cooked meats and pasteurized dairy products and that they should avoid potentially infective materials such as aborted animal fetuses on farms.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND
HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. LISTERIOSIS. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual.
17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 296-299.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. *Listeria monocytogenes* Infections. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of
the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American
Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 372-374.